

DD/S 72-2698

22 SEP 1972

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FILE *Project C*

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Support Information Processing System  
(SIPS) Task Force

SUBJECT : Status of CONIF II

REFERENCE : Memo dtd 21 Oct 71 to D/L fr D/SIPS/TF, Subj: "New  
Contract System (CONIF II)"

1. Over the past several months, our inquiries and problem solving efforts have taken the form of discussions among your CONIF project representatives and ours. We felt that the objectives could be reached satisfactorily in that manner and we could avoid creating a mass of correspondence, the responses to which would have drained even more resources from the project. For the most part, those discussions were successful in clearing up many of the problems or questions concerning the CONIF data base and operating requirements. As a matter of fact, we have experienced real progress with the cooperation and under the leadership of Mr. [REDACTED] K1A9a and his entire group. We hope that that relationship will continue. We are aware, however, that there are continuing greater problems which apparently cannot be completely solved through discussion at the project representative level.

2. As we indicated in a recent memorandum to you, we are concerned whenever there are any delays in the implementation of CONIF II. The reference advised that, barring the occurrence of major problems, the anticipated date for discontinuing CONIF I and bringing up CONIF II was 30 November 1971. Certain major problems did indeed occur in the GIMS software, in our own data base, and in the internally developed programs. We recognized that those problems would take time to solve and accepted the fact that a slippage in implementation was inevitable. As time went on, there were occasions when it appeared that the system was almost ready to become operational, then another major problem would develop to delay it further. For example, when we had a requirement to develop an extensive and detailed 1972 fiscal-year-end report for the Executive Director-Comptroller, inquiry was made orally in June concerning the possible utilization of CONIF II so that that data could be extracted and assembled more efficiently. We were told that the system was not ready but that a realistic target date for completion of CONIF II was 31 July 1972. However, the system was not

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ready in July because of still another problem that had surfaced. The extraction and assembly of contract statistical data for the aforementioned report required the expenditure of many man-hours by the Office of Logistics (OL). As you know, CONIF II is still not operational and we are not clear regarding its status. We feel, therefore, that there should be no further delay in making an intensive study of the remaining problems and seeking their early solution.

3. Our request for the current status of CONIF II relates to three primary areas:

a. What are the specific problems, if any, with the GIMS software as it relates to CONIF II? What efforts are your office and the contractor making to solve those problems? When do you expect a solution to each of the problems and an acceptable software package?

b. What are the specific problems, if any, with internally developed programs for CONIF II? What efforts are being made to solve them? When do you expect to have acceptable internally developed programs?

c. What are the specific problems, if any, in the CONIF I data base? What can this Office do to clear them up? Do you feel that our system operating requirements and the data relationships are completely understood by your programmers and, if not, what can we in OL do to assist? How long do you think it might take to clear up any remaining problems for which this Office has a responsibility?

4. Two points of urgency particularly concern us at this point in time. First, all CONIF input has to be coded twice in order to serve the old and new systems. We had hoped that that phase, which began last November, would have ended after a very few weeks. Instead, it has had to continue for several months. Double coding is not only a significant extra workload but it is having its adverse psychological effects with regard to the credibility of our system development. Secondly, we are approaching the mid-point of fiscal year 1973 when we will again be required to extract masses of data and assemble them into a report for the Executive Director. Since CONIF I is not designed to efficiently extract data in the format required, we hope that an operational CONIF II will be available to us no later than mid-December so that we can avoid the many hours of manual effort which will otherwise be required to prepare that report.

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5. We have purposely avoided any comment concerning the status of CONIF III. We are of the opinion that we must take the contract information program in logical steps and that the successful operation of CONIF II must precede any intensive effort to develop CONIF III.

6. We shall appreciate your early response to our questions in paragraph 3, and we request that every effort be made to have a thoroughly tested and operational CONIF II made available to us in the next 90 days. In regard to system testing, we ask that our OL representatives, particularly Mrs. [REDACTED] who are intimately familiar with how the system must perform, be allowed to take active parts in that testing along with Mr. [REDACTED] and other members of his group.

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[REDACTED]  
John F. Blake  
Director of Logistics

cc: DD/S

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